

# DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS DEVOTED TO JOB CREATION AS WE WORK OUT OF THE REPUBLICAN RECESSION

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, Democrats in Congress have been devoted to job creation as a top priority to help put people back to work and to refuel our economy ravaged by the economic policies of the former administration. The Republican recession is the worst economic crisis the country has experienced since the Great Depression.

The Recovery Act by itself is not enough to restore the economy, but it is helping put America back to work. The Recovery Act has created more than 640,000 jobs since it was enacted in February and could produce as many as 1.6 million jobs. The Recovery Act has reduced job losses, reduced the unemployment rate, and increased the gross domestic product. We should continue to support jobs and jobs now.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of Leader BOEHNER's 1-minute today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

## SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

## THE ADMINISTRATION'S AFGHANISTAN PLAN LACKS CLARITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, when a President decides to go to war, his or her plans must have clarity. The American people need to know exactly where the President stands and what his goals are. The President's original proposal was to begin withdrawing American troops from Afghanistan 18 months from now, in July 2011. When the President first announced the plan, it sounded like a pretty clear timetable, but then the picture started to get really fuzzy when American and Afghan officials began to backtrack.

National Security Adviser James Jones said the withdrawal date is "not a cliff, it's a ramp." Secretary of State Clinton said the withdrawal would continue "for the foreseeable future." Defense Secretary Gates called the with-

drawal plan the "beginning of a process, an inflection point," and dependent upon "conditions on the ground." He also said that the actual withdrawal would "probably" take 2 or 3 years. And then President Karzai really threw cold water on things when he said that Afghanistan would not be able to provide for its own security for 15 to 20 years, let alone 18 months.

So the question is this: When July, 2011, rolls around, will we be at the beginning of the troop withdrawal or just in the middle of it? Will we be standing on the cliff or going down the ramp? And will we be at the inflection point or at the point of no return in another open-ended war?

Mr. Speaker, the American people and our troops deserve a solid plan. We have the right to know exactly what we're getting into before we start spending billions of dollars more and spilling more and more of our troops' blood. That's why Congress must ask the administration some tough questions and demand better answers, especially before we authorize another dime for this foreign occupation.

You know, that's our responsibility. That's our job. We must make sure that the next appropriation has a much better balance between the military and civilian need, a balance that will be considerably better than the last appropriation. We must make sure it includes sufficient funds for economic development, humanitarian aid, infrastructure, education, and other elements of smart security. And the House must have a full and open debate about the administration's escalation plan and an up-or-down vote on whether we support it.

We have a solemn obligation, Mr. Speaker, to let the American people know where each one of us stands. As for me, I've made it clear that I am opposed to the escalation. I have proposed a clear alternative, House Resolution 363, the SMART Security Platform for the 21st Century. Mr. Speaker, after the catastrophe of Iraq, we can't march blindly into another war that will drag on for years and years. The time to change and to choose a better path is right now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

## PENNSYLVANIA FARM SHOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, if you were in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, right now, you could be taking part in the annual event that reminds us all of what is wholesome

and fine in this country. A few hours wandering through the Pennsylvania Farm Show, and nostalgia builds. One person remembers the hours it takes to sew the minute stitches on a winning quilt. Another recalls the time and dedication required to raise a tiny calf into a prize-winning dairy cow. A third pictures her mother throwing out recipes until finally one comes together that produces the best angel food cake ever. Some 400,000 people attend, and that is 400,000 memories, from horse-shoe pitching contests to a ride on the 60-year-old merry-go-round. There is a culmination of smells from the hay and the livestock, the sticky bun contest, the myriad foods in the food court—including potato doughnuts, which happens to be my favorite—and even the odor of diesel from the tractor-dancing contests. Yes, that is tractor square dancing—two callers and 14 drivers.

Somehow the fragrances are all tied up with the memories. Now, I'm talking about the largest indoor agricultural event in America, with 10,000 competitive exhibits and 270 commercial vendors.

□ 1630

The 24-acre site of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, houses 11 buildings, including three arenas. The show started on January 9 and continues until Saturday, January 16.

To give you just one example of the breadth of this show, there are more than 6,000 head of sheep, swine, horses, cattle, goats, poultry, and rabbits in competition for the best of the best.

Young rodeo champions from around the State compete in the high school rodeo that includes team roping, saddle and bareback bronco riding, bull riding, and the list goes on. Both members of 4-H and Future Farmers of America participate in the farm show and all of its aspects. There are young people who have learned values and a possible vocation from their participation in this huge event.

Here is an exhibit and competition that was new to me, the Sheep to Shawl contest. It features both adult and youth teams that shear sheep on site, spin the wool into yarn, and create a beautiful shawl in about 2 hours. Each team consists of a shearer, three spinners, and a weaver. The shawls then sell at an auction with proceeds going directly to the team. One sold for more than \$3,000.

This 94-year-old show was begun in 1917, and it was called the Pennsylvania Corn, Fruit, Vegetable, Dairy Products, and Wool Show. It has grown and expanded and grown again from 5,000 visitors in 1917 to 400,000 this year. It has come through war conditions that nearly cancelled the show in 1918 because the Federal Government seized control of the railroads, to Tropical Storm Agnes in 1972, which put 91 inches of water in the main exhibition building that left an inch of mud and half a million dollars in damage.